knowledge on the field and provides marketing assistance. Food processing sector has also been included as a priority sector for lending by financial institutions.

Preservation of plants and seeds of medicinal value

4123. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan for Central scheme to preserve plants and seeds of medicinal value;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) A Central Sector scheme on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture since the VIII Plan under which plants and seeds of medicinal value are being conserved through the State Agricultural Universities. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is involved in the conservation of medicinal plants through their programmes of (i) All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, (ii) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Research, (iii) National Agricultural Technology Project on Plant Biodiversity under Jai Vigyan National Science and Technology Mission and (iv) project funded by Department of Biotechnology on G-15 Genebanks for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

(c) Does not arise.

Subsidy on ammonium chloride fertilizers

4124. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for the restoration of subsidy on Ammonium Chloride Fertilizer; and

(b) whether Government are taking any action for subsidising the price of ammonia by linking to the average subsidy being recovered from Urea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Use of subsidised ammonia is permitted for manufacturing urea, which is the only fertiliser at present under price, distribution and movement control.